

April 11, 2017

Dear Researcher,

Thank you for your interest in the Sexual Orientation Concealment Scale (SOCS).

The SOCS was published in a scientific journal for use in the public domain. You do not need to contact any of the authors for permission to use this scale in noncommercial research. However, I do ask that researchers send any reports of research findings to me as soon as available, including those that remain unpublished. You may not use the scale for commercial purposes without permission.

The following pages contain the scale itself, as well as basic information about the scale. If you have questions or concerns about the SOCS that are not addressed in these pages, then feel free to contact me using the contact information below.

Best wishes with your research!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Mohr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'R'.

Jonathan Mohr

Assistant Professor
Counseling Psychology Program
Department of Psychology
2145K Biology-Psychology Building
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742-4411
E-mail: jmohr@umd.edu
Office phone: 301-405-5907
Office fax: 301-314-5966

INFORMATION SHEET: *SEXUAL ORIENTATION CONCEALMENT SCALE*

What is the Sexual Orientation Concealment Scale?

The Sexual Orientation Concealment Scale (SOCS) is a 6-item measure designed to assess lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) individual's active concealment of their sexual minority status. Items were derived from literature on sexual orientation identity management and include items reflecting use of avoidance strategies (i.e., evading circumstances that would implicate one as LGB) and counterfeiting strategies (i.e., constructing a false guise of heterosexuality; Lance, Anderson, & Croteau, 2010).

Do I need to ask for permission to use the scale?

In the interest of promoting further study, other researchers may use this scale without contacting us to obtain prior permission. However, we do ask that researchers send any reports of research findings as soon as available, including those that remain unpublished, to Jonathan Mohr, Ph.D. (jmohr@umd.edu).

What do I need to know about implementing the SOCS?

For comparability to the norms published in our study (Jackson & Mohr, 2016), researchers should present respondents with the instructions included in this document (see next page).

How is the SOCS scored?

Averaging the six study items produces the overall SOCS score.

NOTE: No items are reverse scored.

What are the psychometric properties of the SOCS?

Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses were used to derive the SOCS. Data from a large sample of LGB college students supported the validity and reliability of the SOCS, suggesting that the measure may offer researchers an efficient means of assessing people's intentional concealment of their LGB identity.

What else is important to know about the SOCS?

Before using the SOCS, we suggest that you read about the instrument development process in the below article.

Jackson, S. D., & Mohr, J. J. (2016). Conceptualizing the closet: Differentiating stigma concealment and nondisclosure processes. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 3, 80-92. doi:10.1037/sgd0000147

Sexual Orientation Concealment Scale

The following six items concern behaviors LGB people sometimes use to hide their sexual orientation. Please rate each item to complete the following phrase:

In the last 2 weeks, I have...

Not at all <input type="checkbox"/>	A little bit <input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/>	Very much <input type="checkbox"/>	All the time <input type="checkbox"/>
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1. ...concealed my sexual orientation by telling someone that I was straight or denying that I was LGB.
2. ...concealed my sexual orientation by avoiding contact with other LGB individuals.
3. ...avoided the subjects of sex, love, attraction, or relationships to conceal my sexual orientation.
4. ...allowed others to assume I am straight without correcting them.
5. ...altered my appearance, mannerisms, or activities in an attempt to “pass” as straight.
6. ...remained silent while witnessing anti-gay remarks, jokes, or activities because I did not want to be labeled as LGB by those involved.